



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents and District Transportation Supervisors

FROM: Doug Hamrick, Assistant Director
District Services, Office of Transportation

DATE: August 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Funding for Student Transportation to EAA Education Programs

In the FY 2011-2012 Appropriation Act, the General Assembly provided funding to reduce school districts' cost of providing transportation services to students attending instructional programs required by the EAA. School districts are allotted \$153,136 for EAA Bus Driver Wages and Benefits to offset the cost of providing EAA transportation service and are subject to any future budget reductions.

These funds may be used to pay for transportation costs associated with a district delivering the following student instructional programs (teachers wages, benefits cost, supplies, etc.) using State Funds from Revenue Code 3538.

1. EAA Modified school year/day
2. EAA Reduce class size grades 1-3
3. EAA Summer school
4. EAA Comprehensive remediation (after school programs)
5. EAA Homework center (impaired districts)
6. EAA Alternative school

To utilize these funds to pay for transportation services necessary to transport students attending the EAA programs listed above, a school district need only complete a route description(s) (R-16/17) for each bus route operated and submit it to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) County Supervisor for approval. Upon approval by the County Supervisor, the SCDE will fund the maintenance and operations cost for state school buses operated on EAA program routes.

In addition to paying for bus operations cost, funds have been set aside to aid each school district in paying for driver wages and benefits cost associated with providing EAA transportation. Each school district will be allocated EAA bus driver salary funds based the funding formula used to distribute Revenue Code 3538 funds. School districts

will receive funding for driver salary cost not to exceed the total of the allotted funds. These funds will be distributed to school districts through a funding formula similar to the standard driver salary funding formula. The school bus route driving time approved on the EAA route description(s) will be multiplied by the average per minute funding established by dividing the EAA Bus Driver Wages and Benefits funds allotted by the statewide total number of EAA annual route time minutes. School districts will receive funding for driver salary up to, but not to exceed, the total amount of the allotted funds.

The SCDE may reimburse school districts for the use of district-owned school buses if this is determined to be the most efficient method to provide transportation services to these programs.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at 803-734-8246.

DH/bc
Attachment